



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Lawandy, Nabil M et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/060,767 FILING DATE: January 30, 2002

EXAMINER: ART UNIT: 1755

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 902.0025.U1(US)

TITLE: CONTRAST ENHANCING MARKING SYSTEM FOR APPLICATION OF  
UNOBTRUSIVE IDENTIFICATION AND OTHER MARKINGS

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is herewith filed for the above identified U.S. Application. Any fee required as a result of this Preliminary Amendment is attached. However, should the undersigned attorney be mistaken or should there be a fee deficiency, please charge deposit account no.: 50-1924 for the amount of the deficiency.

Please amend the application as shown below.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add the following new claims:

32. A system as in Claim 1, wherein at least one application of said marking system is disposed upon another at least one application of said marking system, and wherein indicia of each application of said marking system are optically readable under a different set of environmental conditions.

33. A system as in Claim 32, wherein said indicia of each said at least one application of said marking system are transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state and sequentially become optically readable upon a change in environmental conditions.

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34. A system as in Claim 32, wherein said substrate is a mail piece and where indicia of at least one application of said marking system comprises a code used when sorting the mail piece.

35. A multi-layer marking system comprising:

a first layer disposed over a substrate;

a second layer disposed over said first layer, said first and said second layer being substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, said first layer becoming optically contrasting with respect to the substrate in response to a first stimulus, said second layer becoming optically contrasting with respect to said first layer in response to a second stimulus; and

first indicia disposed on said first layer and second indicia disposed on said second layer, said first and second indicia comprising optically readable information.

36. A system as in Claim 35, where said first stimulus comprises a first temperature, and where said second stimulus comprises a second temperature that is greater than said first temperature.

37. A system as in Claim 35, where said first and second indicia are transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state and become optically readable in response to a respective stimulus.

38. A system as in Claim 36, where only said first indicia is readable when exposed to said first temperature, and where said second indicia is readable when exposed to said second temperature.

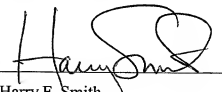
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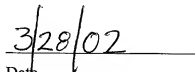
39. A system as in Claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a mail piece and where at least one of said first and second indicia comprises information used when sorting the mail piece prior to delivery of the mail piece.

### REMARKS

Support for newly added claims 32-39 can be found at least in Figs. 6 and 7, and in the specification at least at page 23 and page 24. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Date

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

March 28, 2002

Date

Victoria Parker

Name of Person Making Deposit

10060767.040302

**ADDED PAGES TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the CLAIMS:**

Please add the following new claims.

32. A system as in Claim 1, wherein at least one application of said marking system is disposed upon another at least one application of said marking system, and wherein indicia of each application of said marking system are optically readable under a different set of environmental conditions.

33. A system as in Claim 32, wherein said indicia of each said at least one application of said marking system are transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state and sequentially become optically readable upon a change in environmental conditions.

34. A system as in Claim 32, wherein said substrate is a mail piece and where indicia of at least one application of said marking system comprises a code used when sorting the mail piece.

35. A multi-layer marking system comprising:

a first layer disposed over a substrate;

a second layer disposed over said first layer, said first and said second layer being substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, said first layer becoming optically contrasting with respect to the substrate in response to a first stimulus, said second layer becoming optically contrasting with respect to said first layer in response to a second stimulus; and

first indicia disposed on said first layer and second indicia disposed on said second layer, said first and second indicia comprising optically readable information.

36. A system as in Claim 35, where said first stimulus comprises a first temperature, and where said second stimulus comprises a second temperature that is greater than said first temperature.

37. A system as in Claim 35, where said first and second indicia are transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state and become optically readable in response to a respective stimulus.

38. A system as in Claim 36, where only said first indicia is readable when exposed to said first temperature, and where said second indicia is readable when exposed to said second temperature.

39. A system as in Claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a mail piece and where at least one of said first and second indicia comprises information used when sorting the mail piece prior to delivery of the mail piece.